

Health Care Services

The Division of Prisons provides adequate health care services for medical, mental health, and dental concerns. Health care services stress prevention and early identification of health concerns.

Every inmate will be housed in a prison facility that is capable of meeting his or her medical and mental health needs. Upon entering the prison system, each inmate is evaluated medically and assigned an acuity rating which corresponds to the number of hours of nursing care required to meet the inmate's medical and mental health needs. The medical evaluation includes an admission physical, dental screening, TB testing and an update on immunizations. Blood tests may be drawn based on health history and state requirements (*page 51). **The acuity rating is a critical factor in determining an inmate's housing assignment.**

Inmates are encouraged to complete a request for release of medical records form to be sent to their previous doctor(s) for ongoing medical conditions. The signed release gives the family physician the inmate's permission to have medical records forwarded to the institution's medical unit for review and to have as a part of the medical file.

How do and inmate's medical needs affect his/her housing assignment?

Every inmate will be placed in a facility that is capable of meeting the inmate's medical and mental health needs.

How does an inmate make a health care appointment?

Inmates who need to make an appointment with health care staff complete a form requesting medical care called the **Sick Call Appointment Request**. The sick call schedule is posted. All requests are reviewed and prioritized according to urgency of the problem and medical staff then schedules appointments. Emergency medical care is provided immediately.